

Dear Montgomery County Councilmembers,

As you consider mandating vaccines for all Montgomery County employees, please consider this study, dated September 30, 2021, "*Increases in Covid-19 are unrelated to levels of vaccination across 68 countries and 2947 counties in the U.S.*" The lead author is from Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, Cambridge, MA USA. The article indicates that data show a trend toward higher numbers of Covid cases in more vaccinated populations rather than the other way around which would be expected.

The authors final paragraph reads "In summary (bold and italic mine), even as **efforts should be made to encourage populations to get vaccinated it should be done so with *humility and respect. Stigmatizing populations can do more harm than good.***

Here is the link to the study as published at the National Library of Medicine of The National Institutes of Health.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8481107/>

As I see it, voting to mandate vaccines is NOT following the science and is a political rather than public health response to Covid-19.

Sincerely,

Cathy Roberts